

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 170287

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB UR

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF US TRADE UNION VISIT TO USSR

REFERENCE: STATE 166802

FOR LABOR ATTACHES

1. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED AUG 24, THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME), AFL-CIO ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD CANCELLED WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE UNION'S FIRST DELEGATION VISIT TO THE USSR. MR. LUCY, AFSCME SECRETARY-TREASURER, SAID THAT THE DECISION MADE BY PRESIDENT JERRY WURF AND HIMSELF TO CANCEL THE VISIT CAME AS A RESULT OF "RECENT EVENTS" IN THE SOVIET UNION "WHICH VIOLATE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT." STATEMENT EXPLAINS THAT "...HECKLING OF AND DISCRIMINATION

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AGAINST MINORITY GROUPS AND THE RELUCTANCE AND REFUSAL

OF SOVIET OFFICIALS TO RESTRAIN ELEMENTS WHICH OVERTLY
ATTACK MEMBERS OF SUCH GROUPS DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO
AN IDEAL CLIMATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS." SUCH DISCRIMI-
NATION, THE STATEMENT ADDS, "VIOLATES THE SPIRIT OF
TRADE UNIONS THE WORLD OVER."

2. "IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ON THE PART
OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD WE, AS TRADE
UNIONISTS, FEEL A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO RESCIND OUR

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RUSSIAN INVITATION," LUCY SAID.

3. DEPT AWAITING COPY OF FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT SENT IN
FORM OF CABLEGRAM TO "GEORGE MAKEJEV, PRESIDENT STATE
INSTITUTIONS WORKERS UNION, CENTRAL COMMITTEE" AND
WILL TRANSMIT TO EMBASSY AS SOON AS RECEIVED. IT WILL
BE OF INTEREST TO OBSERVE WHAT, IF ANY, EFFECT AFSCME'S
CANCELLATION OF VISIT MAY HAVE ON OTHER US LABOR
VISITS MENTIONED REFTEL. RUSH

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